

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

(Section of the Library
Association)

Edited by T. E. Callander, A.L.A.

Fulham Public Libraries



CONTENTS

	Page
EDITORIAL	186
LIBRARIES IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA AND IN THE U.S.S.R.	186
A. Tsikulenko	
THE DIVISIONS:	
Midland Division	195
South-Eastern Division	196
GENIO LOCI	197
J. D. S.	
APPOINTMENTS	199
NEW MEMBERS	199

EDITORIAL

THE article on libraries in the U.S.S.R., printed on this page, was obtained for us by M. Ivan Amdur, of the *U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries*.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

A dance for London members and their friends will be held on Wednesday, 9th November. Details of place, time, and the price of tickets will be announced later. Please book the date.

Messrs. George Allen & Unwin have recently announced a book of particular interest—*Supremacy: an Historical Drama*, by T. C. Kemp. The author is well known to students and to Midland librarians. His play, which has had unusually good notices, is a distinguished contribution to the English theatre.

LIBRARIES IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA AND IN THE U.S.S.R.

By A. TSIKULENKO

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE CENTRAL CABINET OF POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF EDUCATION

FREE libraries in pre-revolutionary Russia consisted of municipal libraries under the control of municipalities, village libraries of the *Zemstvo*,¹ libraries of the Temperance Society, and of other societies.

In order to open a library in those days, the permission of the local Governor was required, as well as the consent of the District Education Inspector, and the approval of the local Bishop and local officials of lesser importance. All societies which opened people's free libraries, e.g. the Society for the Spread of Literacy, were viewed with suspicion by the Tsarist Government. The opening of a library, in which fees were charged for the borrowing of books, was attended with fewer obstacles. Literature allowed in these paid libraries was far more extensive than in free libraries. And the more commercial the tendency of such a library, the higher fees it took from the readers, the greater freedom did it enjoy in the selection of books. There used to be a special list of books allowed in people's free

¹ Administrative and economical organizations in the Tsarist villages, elected on the basis of income qualification.

The Library Assistant

libraries, a list confirmed by the "Learned Committee" of the Minister of the Interior, and no other books could be kept there. Free libraries were not allowed to purchase more than 5 per cent. of the total number of books that were published. Books on social and political questions were rigorously censored. Thus, books published during the Revolution of 1905 were forbidden, and were stored. Only in 1917 were they released.

The following statistics are contained in Medynsky's book, *Education given outside the school: its importance, organization, and technique*, published prior to the October Revolution.

In this book the average yearly supply of books by one of the libraries is given as follows:

Total number of books lent	Average per one reader	Books on religion and morality	Works of fiction	History	Natural Science	Others
1,259	8.3	6.8 per cent.	61 per cent.	9 per cent.	5.6 per cent.	17 per cent.

This statistical table does not mention books on politics at all. Apparently, if there were any books on that subject, they were classified under the heading "Others." On the other hand, books on "religion and morality" are mentioned first, and their percentage is rather high. This refers to books describing the lives of the saints, miracles worked by them, etc. Though the percentage of religious books borrowed by readers was considerable, the percentage of such books kept on the library shelves was much higher. Thus, the same book of Medynsky states that in 1911 in the Tambov Province the libraries on an average contained 21 per cent. of religious books, in the Jaroslav Province their percentage was 15.2, in the Kiev Province 16.

It is interesting to examine the table of books contained in the libraries of the Leningrad Region, and compare the divisions of literature for 1914 with those of 1926, using the decimal classification.

Sections of scientific literature	Number of books kept	
	In 19 libraries in 1914	In 20 libraries in 1926
0	1,812	10,875
1	2,528	4,927
2	3,674	4,097
3	1,349	75,411
4	786	1,982
5	5,697	22,709

The Library Assistant

Sections of scientific literature	Number of books kept	
	In 19 libraries in 1914	In 20 libraries in 1926
6 . . .	1,476	25,696
7 . . .	1,497	17,205
8 . . .	1,615	14,905
9 . . .	5,278	91,415
β . . .	8,276	13,162
Fiction . . .	28,774	164,671
Total . . .	57,762	447,065

This table is noteworthy: in the first place, because it shows that in 1914 libraries contained 2.7 times as many books on religion as on social questions (section 2), and secondly, that the number of books on sociology and politics increased 56 times by 1926. On the other hand, the works of fiction increased only 6 times, and the entire scientific¹ literature 9.8 times. Thus, the obvious conclusion is that in the years of revolution it was the scientific, and especially the social-political, books that increased most in number.

It is interesting to examine at the present time in what proportion the various kinds of books were read.

Sections of scientific literature	Number of books lent	
	By 19 libraries in 1914	By 20 libraries in 1926
0 . . .	1,148	24,009
1 . . .	4,673	8,012
2 . . .	1,363	2,569
3 . . .	1,497	115,861
4 . . .	576	2,970
5 . . .	9,064	66,314
6 . . .	2,678	84,393
7 . . .	902	11,002
8 . . .	12,055	45,636
9 . . .	6,578	101,486
β . . .	3,911	17,495
Fiction . . .	182,225	562,105
Total . . .	226,570	1,041,652

¹ The writer uses the term "scientific" as synonymous with "non-fiction."—HON. ED.
188

The Library Assistant

This table shows that readers took, in 1926, 77 times more books on social science and politics than in 1914, and 10·8 times more scientific books in general. As to the works of fiction, the number of books lent increased only 3·1 times; in other words, the demand for scientific books, particularly on social science and politics, grows more rapidly than the increase in supply of those books in the libraries.

If we take the trade-union libraries attached to workers' clubs, factories, and works, we find that there the percentage of scientific and social-political books borrowed by the reader is still greater.

The following statistics refer to the library of the club attached to the "Caoutchouk" Plant in Moscow, for the six months from January 1st to July 1st, 1931:

<i>Sections of scientific literature</i>	<i>Books loaned</i>
0	725
1	169
2	457
3	4,322
4	150
5	1,316
6	2,863
7	782
8	1,089
9	1,566
β	977
Fiction	9,080
Total	23,496

This table shows, in the first place, that the workers take a greater interest in scientific literature than in fiction, since the former constituted 61 per cent. of the total of the books borrowed; and secondly, that the branch of scientific literature they are most interested in is that which deals with social and political questions—it is represented by 30 per cent. of the total number of books borrowed.

Since the Revolution, the libraries are doing a splendid work, increasing in intensity with every year. If we compare the work of the same library of the "Caoutchouk" Plant for half of 1928 with its work for a corresponding period in 1931, we observe the following:

The Library Assistant

	<i>For 6 months of 1928</i>	<i>For 6 months of 1931</i>
Total number of subscribers	1,106	2,915
Total number of worker-subscribers	726	2,392
Total number of books kept	8,998	15,000
Total number of books loaned	10,241	23,496
Total number of books on social and political questions loaned	549	4,322

In the public libraries of the Khamovnichesky district of Moscow, 60,000 books were borrowed by readers during the year 1921; in 1924 the corresponding number of books was 480,000 and in 1930, 995,000. The entire network of public libraries has increased 100 per cent. during the years of the Revolution (counting also the village libraries). In 1931, in the whole of the R.S.F.S.R. there were 18,000 libraries, with 59 million books.

Before the Revolution, village libraries were altogether wretched, most of them had 100 to 150 books of a semi-childish nature, which were under the control of the village teachers. The teachers were paid some 20 to 30 roubles a year for the circulation of these books among the adult population. There were not more than 5 per cent. of libraries which had a special paid librarian, i.e. the total number of paid librarians did not exceed 250 to 300. Prior to the Revolution, the free libraries in towns were in a better state than village libraries, and they had a better assortment of books. Some of the Moscow libraries had as many as 15,000 books. The libraries of big cities were manned with a staff of from one to five persons. No libraries existed in factories and works, nor were there any workers' clubs; there existed only small libraries containing technical books for engineers, directors, etc. Military libraries, prior to the Revolution, were attached to officers' clubs, accessible only to officers and their wives.

During the years of the revolutionary period the network of libraries has not only increased, but the nature of their work has greatly changed. Thus, in the Tver Province, in 1909 there were 59 libraries, and the average number of books in each library was 628; in 1926 there were no less than 250 libraries in that province, with an average of 3,426 books in each. At the present time there are 12,028 libraries in the U.S.S.R. which have a paid librarian, whose salaries range from 720 to 960 roubles a year. In 1922 there were 1,324 libraries of the Red Army containing 2 million to 7 million books, with a circulation of 6 millions, while in 1926 1,620 libraries contained 6.7 million books, with a circulation of 11 millions. In 1922 18.6 per cent. of books borrowed by Red Army men dealt with social and political subjects; in 1926 that percentage increased to 26. In 190

The Library Assistant

1929 there were 7,151 trade-union libraries, with a total of 20.5 million books. They loaned to members 48.1 million books during that year.

The libraries and books are distributed among the trade unions as follows:

<i>Trade Unions</i>	<i>Number of libraries</i>	<i>Number of books (in thousands)</i>
1. Agricultural workers	1,041	561.4
2. Paper workers	78	229
3. Miners	415	1,434
4. Wood workers	283	428
5. Leather workers and tanners	111	367
6. Metal workers	464	2,081
7. Printers	130	343
8. Food industry workers	330	636
9. Sugar industry workers	167	605
10. Textile workers	345	2,352
11. Chemical workers	218	718
12. Needle workers	52	129
13. Builders	341	781
14. Water-transport workers	135	549
15. Railwaymen	558	3,588
16. Local transport workers	125	251
17. Postal, telegraph, telephone, and radio workers	241	436
18. Art workers	134	167
19. Medical workers	225	399
20. Educational workers	1,130	1,439
21. Soviet and commercial employees	368	1,244
22. Municipal workers	118	870
23. Waiters, cooks, and domestic servants	70	91
24. Inter-union workers	48	399
25. United workers	18	85
Total	7,151	20.5 million

Libraries of scientific books, whose network has been extended, also started to cater for mass-readers. The largest libraries founded under the Soviet regime—the Libraries of the Communist Academy of the Lenin Institute and of the Marx-Engels Institute—each possess more than a million books. Apart from copies which are sent to them free by Soviet publishing organizations, they are given 60 to 70 thousand roubles a year for the purchase of books.

Lenin justly described the old pre-revolutionary book as "one of the greatest

The Library Assistant

evils and calamities bequeathed to us by old capitalist society." There was a complete divorce between the old-type book and the actual life of the people. Librarians found it very difficult to work with such a supply of books, for they could not satisfy the requirements of the workers.

Even in city libraries, only two or three books were allowed to be kept dealing with economic questions in a spirit differing from the slogan, "For God, Tsar, and Fatherland." The old books on fiction were very harmful, because they gave a false description of the life of capitalist society, instilling in the minds of the readers the idea of the necessity and usefulness of private capital, its humanitarian and other high moral qualities, etc. Absurd fantasies of the type of Rider Haggard's books, or sentimental-monarchist literature of the type of Werner's novels, filled the shelves of the pre-revolutionary libraries. There were also many pornographic books. The History Department in pre-revolutionary libraries was filled with fairy-tales and anecdotes about tsars and kings, their lives and their wars. Illovaysky's textbook of Russian history is a specimen of the "historic-scientific" literature of those times.

During the revolutionary years, there was a sharp increase in all the libraries of readers from among the workers and peasants. Thus, in Leningrad libraries alone the number of worker-readers increased 9 times. According to the report of the All-Union Central Council of Trade-Unions, the total number of readers in trade-union libraries in 1929 was 2.2 millions. During the last three years great efforts have been made to attract the masses to the libraries. Some libraries entered into Socialist competition with each other to attract semi-literate readers to the libraries. The Griboyedov Library in Moscow attracted 800 semi-literate readers in the course of 1929-30.

The rapid rate of elimination of illiteracy throughout the U.S.S.R. contributed to the increase of semi-literate subscribers in all libraries. In 1931 alone, 14 million illiterate adults were taught in the U.S.S.R. This fact is of special importance for the National Minorities. The newspaper, *Autonomous Yakutia*, in May 1931 received a letter from several semi-literate Tungus women, with the request to organize a circulating library in their locality. In the Adygean (Circassian) Autonomous Region the percentage of literate people was very low: in 1926 the percentage of literates was 28.4 per cent., and at the present time 100 per cent. of the children of school age are being taught to read and write. The National Minorities, recently initiated in the art of reading, are very eager to borrow books from libraries. During the last few years the libraries of the U.S.S.R. have been enriched by a considerable amount of literature in the various languages of the National Minorities. The introduction of the new Latinized alphabet largely contributed to the growth of literacy. In Buryato-Mongolia, 30,000 persons were taught the alphabet according to the new Latinized script. A whole number of

The Library Assistant

posters, primers, and fiction books in Latin characters were published. The libraries of Buryato-Mongolia are well stocked with books written in the new alphabet.

The U.S.S.R. libraries widely advertise literature, enrol as readers masses of the people, and adapt the plan of their work in accordance with the economic-political tasks of the country and the local requirements of the neighbourhood. The libraries are being assisted by reading circles for literary criticism, newspaper circles, circles for drawing posters, groups conducted by travelling librarians, etc. In order to familiarize the readers with the books, the libraries organize trips in carts, vans, and wagons for educational propaganda, etc.

The Cultural Department of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions issued a report for 1929, which showed that out of 7,151 libraries—

48 per cent. organize circles for reading aloud to an audience.

13.4 per cent. organize circles for narration.

46.9 per cent. organize talks, papers, reports, discussions, educational questions, and answers.

86.4 per cent organize book exhibitions.

46.6 per cent. conduct a reference service, and draw up lists of recommended books.

69.5 per cent. organize various circles.

Apart from the above-mentioned forms of mass-work, a great cultural work is being performed in workshops, workers' dormitories, and among the wives of the workers. In those places libraries not only lend books, but also organize lectures, readings, narrations, the reading of newspapers, etc.

Mass-work is being carried out with special intensity in some of the Political Education Departments. Thus, in the Griboyedov Library, in the course of the winter months of 1929-30, eight or nine mass campaigns were conducted every month with a daily attendance of 200 to 250 people. The loaning of books on the subject of the report, paper, or lecture given on those days enlisted each time from twenty to thirty-five new subscribers to the libraries. The libraries of the Political Education Departments employ travelling librarians, who visit village huts. The circle of active readers attached to the library organizes a weekly visit to all the huts in the village for the purpose of loaning books.

The books of the libraries find their way everywhere, to the peasant huts, to the camps of the Red Army, to fishermen, to the transient seasonal building workers, to the lumber-jacks in the remotest districts of the Archangel forests, etc.

The annual plan of the mass-work of the libraries is drawn up by its entire staff, and, prior to its adoption, is discussed by the active readers, and sometimes at a general meeting of all the readers. No permission for any mass measures is required from the administrative or any other Government body. The tickets are

The Library Assistant

distributed through the factory committees, cultural commissions of house associations, through the readers of the library, and through library organizations, such as library councils, library commissions, etc. These nuclei of library organizations are formed of the representatives of all organizations and enterprises which are in the neighbourhood of the library, or those which help it in its work. Lately, academic libraries have also started to conduct mass-work. Thus, the library of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Leningrad organizes exhibitions of books in villages, along with diagrams, posters, and other exhibits. Papers, talks, and lectures on agricultural questions are given at such exhibitions. The development of forms and methods of mass-work conducted by libraries opens up new paths, bringing the reader into closer contact with books, of co-ordinating the books with the economic and political tasks of the country.

The library attached to the club of the "Caoutchouc" Plant, by a series of readers' competitions, stimulated the interest of the workers in writing books on questions of their production. This library, as well as others, possesses a circle of worker-authors writing technical books. Considerable attention has lately been devoted to investigating the demand of the mass-reader in regard to books, their contents and form. Readers' opinions on the books are being consulted. Some libraries organize the reading of authors' manuscripts to groups of mass-readers. Detailed records are kept of all the opinions given, and such minutes are subsequently sent to the State Publishing House. Since the Revolution, the workers and peasants make greater demands on the quality of the books. There is a stricter selection of books for the libraries. The Bibliographical Institute, founded in 1929, mainly caters for the mass libraries, helping them to compile their lists, and publishing bibliographical bulletins on books recommended.

As regards mass-work of libraries prior to the Revolution, it is unnecessary to point out that the main obstacle to its development was the requirement to have a permit from the police to organize any meetings. The programme of each evening had to be submitted to the censor. The libraries could therefore organize only one or two mass-meetings a year. They were rare events, and were not systematically arranged as part of their work. Active work at that time could only be conducted in children's libraries. However, the extra curriculum work with children was far from satisfactory. In some cities, such as, for instance, Kiev, the pupils of the secondary schools were even forbidden to borrow books from public libraries. The organization of any circles attached to libraries was obviously impossible prior to the Revolution. No social work could be expected from libraries of the Temperance Society, since that society and its branches were presided over by the high dignitaries of the Church and the police.

In conclusion, a few words about the training of librarians. Prior to the Revolution, the only courses for librarians were those attached to the Shanyavsky-

The Library Assistant

University, and were founded only in 1913. The great majority of the librarians had no special training, and were on a very low level of culture and political development, taking no interest in public life. At the best they shared the views of the Liberal Constitutionalists, instead of being reactionaries and monarchists.

After the October Revolution, great attention was devoted to the training of the new staff of librarians. Courses for workers and peasants were organized at the People's Commissariat of Education itself. Not a single year passed without some of the institutions organizing library-courses. Courses were organized by the provincial sections of the People's Education, by the political sections of the Red Army, by Communist Universities (e.g. at the Sverdlov University, etc.).

At the present time the network of institutions training librarians consists of one Scientific Research Institute (the Library Institute), one University for Librarians in Moscow (the Moscow Library Institute at the Lenin Library), two library sections at Communist Universities, one section attached to the Higher Normal School, four high-schools for librarians, and seven library sections at the Normal Schools. There also exists a Central Institute for Higher Training, with correspondence courses attached. Apart from these, there periodically take place congresses, conferences, excursions of librarians, etc.

Librarians are now very different in point of culture and politics. A librarian is now a social and political worker conducting mass-work on a world-scale, who in most cases has had a special professional training.

THE DIVISIONS

MIDLAND DIVISION

THE Midland Division of the A.A.L. organized a very successful joint meeting with the Birmingham and District and North Midland Branches of the L.A. at Leicester on 23rd June.

Mr. A. B. Hyslop, Treasurer of the Carnegie U.K. Trust, addressed a gathering of sixty members, calling his talk "Some thoughts on librarianship." He stressed the new educational value of public libraries consequent upon the modern widening of the conception of education, and the necessity for librarians to build a huge superstructure of knowledge, wide interests, and broad sympathies, upon their actual professional qualifications if the claims of the public library as an educational agency were to be recognized more fully. Library assistants' adequate realization of their responsibility would prevent the tragedy of libraries with keen committees and an expectant public being administered by an incompetent librarian.

Then followed two papers on subjects rarely treated in professional meetings,

The Library Assistant

which proved all the more acceptable, because fresh ground was being broken. First came "Patents, designs, and trade-marks," by Mr. W. T. Dunsby, Birmingham's Commercial and Patents Librarian, and then "Hospital libraries in America," by Mr. J. Ormerod, F.L.A., Librarian of Derby Public Libraries. Both papers were packed with informative detail and will shortly appear in the professional journals.

Tea, by invitation of the Lord Mayor of Leicester, was followed by an inspection of the Leicester University College Library, followed by a display (which left the beholders spell-bound with the beauties they saw) of natural phenomena, crystals, etc., on the Museum projector.

J. H. D.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION

The Fifth Annual Meeting at Hastings on 20th July was held under perfect weather conditions, members attending from Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Hove, Lewes, and Worthing. A charming programme had been arranged by Mr. W. Ruskin Butterfield, Chief Librarian, Hastings. Leaving the Brassey Institute by char-à-banc, the party first visited Bodiam Castle, a lovely old moated fortress, the walls of the castle rising sheer from the water, amid a wealth of the loveliest yellow and white water-lilies. Sandhurst was next visited, and here, at the Swan Hotel, a very delightful tea was served. The return journey was made through Northiam, Brede, and Westfield.

The Annual Business Meeting was held at the Museum, and was presided over by the Chairman of the Division, Mr. E. Male, F.L.A. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts were presented and adopted unanimously.

The appointment of officers and committee for the ensuing year was then announced:

President : Mr. E. Male, F.L.A., Brighton.

Hon. Treasurer : Mr. E. Male, F.L.A., Brighton.

Hon. Secretary : Miss G. Dean, Worthing.

Hon. Auditors : Miss E. Young, A.L.A., and Miss K. Mardall, Brighton.

Committee (consisting of one member from each library in the area) : Mr. W. Law (Brighton); Mr. A. Hamblyn (Eastbourne); Miss E. M. Clarke (Hastings); Miss E. M. Talmey (Hove); Mr. R. Rowsell, A.L.A. (East Sussex); Mr. C. L. Quinton, F.L.A. (West Sussex); Miss E. Gerard, A.L.A. (Worthing).

Mr. Male, in a short but appropriate address, urged the increasing necessity for all assistants to qualify. Upon the proposition of Mr. W. Law a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers and committee, and in conclusion Mr. Ruskin Butterfield was the recipient of a very hearty vote of thanks for his very generous hospitality.

The Library Assistant

GENIO LOCI

IT is only reasonable to assume that a library should be able to provide all necessary information regarding its own locality. Where else, indeed—now that the cleric-antiquary is submerged in the social worker, and the town or parish-hall is peopled by legal and financial robots—is the enquirer to turn?

Most libraries make some effort to collect printed and manuscript records of local interest, and most libraries cannot help accumulating a good deal of material of this nature. In a few cases this effort is organized, and an attempt is made to collect everything that may relate, however remotely, to a particular neighbourhood. The result, whether it be a scrap-heap of oddments or a large library systematically arranged, is termed a "Local Collection." The "locality," also, varies from an area confined by the boundaries of a parish, small provincial town, or London Borough, to a County or some other large expanse.

There can be no doubt that the organized local collection, in which everything is represented so far as may be possible, is a valuable and necessary part of the work of every library of standing. Books, pamphlets, maps, newspaper cuttings, leaflets, periodicals, from the local newspaper to the typewritten magazine of church or club—in short, all forms of printed or written information, to say nothing of the pictorial side—may rightly be collected and arranged for such a collection. Obviously, this means that large quantities of apparent lumber, the protozoa of local history, will be collected, as well as the material of undoubted usefulness and interest. It is difficult to foresee the needs of future generations, and within a circumscribed field it is better to collect than to select.

All this material must be made available. Some system of arrangement, and adequate recording and indexing, are necessary. This does not mean that every item must be described as if it were some rare book or manuscript; but every item must be indexed in such a manner that it can be found when required.

The great bulk of a local collection of this nature will never be of the slightest interest to anyone outside the particular locality, and this points to a card catalogue as fulfilling most requirements. Is there, then, any real need to print a large and expensive catalogue, mostly occupied by parish-pump entries, when a card index at the library would suffice?

This query is prompted by the recent appearance of some bulky printed catalogues devoted to the listing of local collections. Birmingham's 1918 catalogue now has an offspring nearly as large as itself; Mr. Austin's Gloucestershire catalogue, possibly by reason of its wider scope, received the official approval of the Carnegie Trustees; and the latest addition comes from Newcastle.

The *Catalogue of the Birmingham Collection: supplement 1918—1931* (1931, 4to, vii + 912 pp.), issued by the City of Birmingham Public Libraries, under

The Library Assistant

the editorship of Mr. Cashmore, is compiled on the dictionary plan. Needless to say, it is well compiled, and leaves nothing to be desired either in technical efficiency or production. But it seems clear that most of the entries would have been just as useful on cards in the Birmingham Reference Library. Take, for instance, this entry from thousands of comparable ones:

302183 [Newspaper cuttings, etc., chiefly relating to old Birmingham, collected by J. Macmillan] fol. [1895-98].

Is this likely to be of any use to a reader in Cornwall or Edinburgh? In these days of rapid communication a searcher for detailed information can soon ascertain definitely whether or not a library contains what he wants; if he wants much he will have to go to that library; and in any case, he will hardly be satisfied by the half-help given by printed catalogues, however well compiled.

Such a printed catalogue is a matter for local pride and congratulation, perhaps, but the needs of readers in the locality and throughout the country would be served as efficiently by a complete card index in the library and a select printed catalogue for general circulation.

The *Local catalogue of material concerning Newcastle and Northumberland*, issued by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries (1932, 4to, vii + 626 pp.), is in two parts, of which the first is arranged alphabetically under authors' names and the second is a classified list. Here again the compilation is excellent, and the volume well produced. And here again great numbers of entries either convey little to the extra-Novocastrian reader, or represent the obvious accumulations that everyone would expect to find in a local collection.

It would be wrong, of course, to deny all usefulness to such massive printed monuments to local pride and laborious care; but it is surely doubtful if the cost of their production can be justified. The solution seems to be on the lines of selective cataloguing in printed form for general consumption, and complete cataloguing on cards in the library housing the collection. The printed catalogue would then contain full entries for all material capable of being described with sufficient exactness to be of use to a reader at a distance; and group-entries for miscellaneous collections of cuttings, obvious official or institutional records, and other material for which in the end the reader inevitably would have to visit the library concerned—where he should find a full card index enabling him to search the actual material.

As a bibliographer I am full of admiration for the care and labour that is represented by such catalogues as these; but as a librarian I would prefer to see the printing costs diverted to other purposes, such as supplementing a book fund or even increasing a local collection.

J. D. S.

The Library Assistant

APPOINTMENTS

WHITELEY.—Miss L. D. Whiteley, B.A. (Diploma of School of Librarianship), Assistant to the Editor of the Northern Regional Union Catalogue, to be Librarian, Wallsend Public Library.



HUNT.—Mr. K. G. Hunt, B.A., F.L.A., Supt. of Branches, Tottenham, to be Chief Librarian, Mitcham.



NEW MEMBERS

JOHN P. GORVETT (Tottenham); Daniel Hay (Caithness County, Wick); Miss E. Hine (Croydon); Frederick J. Owen (New Malden).

Midland Division.—Jessie Bull (Leamington Spa).

North-Western Division.—Richard B. Barnes (Manchester).

TRANSFERS FROM TRANSITIONAL TO FULL MEMBERSHIP:

Central Association 4



CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

THE attention of candidates for the forthcoming and final L.A. examination under the old syllabus, in December, is drawn to the revision Correspondence Courses organized by the A.A.L.

The subjects taken are as follows:

- (1) English Literary History; (2) Elementary Bibliography and Book Selection; (3) Classification; (4) Cataloguing; (5) Library Organization;
- (6) Library Routine.

These courses, running from September to November, consist of six fortnightly lessons and a test paper, and are intended for revision purposes only.

The fee, to members of the Association, for each course is 10s. 6d.

Students wishing to enter for any course should communicate with Mr. S. W. Martin, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, London, S.E.24, from whom forms of application may be obtained. It should be specially noted that application, together with fees, must reach Mr. Martin before 7th September, *after which date no application will be considered.*

Particulars of other correspondence courses being organized in connection with the examination under the new syllabus of the L.A. will be published at an early date.

TRADE UNION
ALL DEPTS.



Telephone :
WATERLOO 1259

P. G. CHAPMAN & CO.

Holders of London C.G. Honours

LIBRARY BINDERS

ALL LEATHERS USED GUARANTEED FREE FROM ACID
REPAIRING WORK A SPECIALITY
BEST MATERIALS ONLY
PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTRACTORS

Tender Forms and Enquiries Invited

P. G. CHAPMAN & CO., 123 TOOLEY ST.,
LONDON, S.E.1

G. BLUNT & SONS, LTD.



For the latest developments in
LIBRARY REBINDING
by the "Ideal" Guarded Every Leaf Process

THE FACSIMILE PUBLISHERS' BINDING
which is now so famous—over 1,600 bindings in stock—at 1/11 per volume, Cr. 8vo.

Lists of these bindings are issued and sent to all Libraries

Our book department also issues lists of books bound in this and other attractive styles
at "Economy" prices

Visits from Public Librarians and Assistants welcomed to our works and showrooms

NORTH ACTON ROAD, HARLESDEN, LONDON, N.W.10
